

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the February 22, 1994, regular Council meeting, was held at the Natural Bridge Hotel at 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 1994.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilman Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilman Payton M. Otey; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Vice Mayor James A. Vest.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; Assistant to the City Manager Barry Thompson; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton reconvened the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding a proposed resolution and executive summary concerning the consolidation issue. The City Manager is to prepare a draft resolution for Council's review that includes the following points:

- that Council has looked into consolidation into a city and it appears that there is nothing that benefits the City
- that the petition was initiated in the County
- that Council is open minded and would be willing to look at anything the County can show would be beneficial to the citizens of the City of Bedford
- that Council hears the voters who have said that they would like to look at areas of cooperation, and Council would be willing to study further the various other forms of cooperation
- loss of assets
- loss of control
- loss of representation

Mayor Shelton reviewed the "Bedford Forward" Visioning and Strategic Planning Process. The Mayor reported that three focus areas have been identified: (1) Economic Development (2) Education (3) Government Services. Mr. John Boardman, President Sam Moore Furniture Industries, and Mayor Shelton are Co-Chairs.

Discussion ensued regarding Centertown, the Main Street Program, funding, assessment districts, and other items.

Councilman Brookshier asked the City Manager to furnish Council with copies of "Main Street" plans from other localities.

Mayor Shelton declared a recess from 9:35 p.m. until 9:45 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the old Bedford Grammar School building.

City Manager Gross stated that asbestos has been removed, broken glass has been replaced, but the building is continuing to deteriorate.

Future possible plans for the building were discussed, which included remodeling the main structure, demolishing the gym, and constructing a gym/community building.

Mayor Shelton reported that Virginia Western Community College has asked for funds in the amount of \$680,000 for renovations to accommodate an Extended Learning Center, which could be housed in the old Grammar School building.

The City Manager is to have a structural engineer inspect the building and schedule a walk-through tour of the building by Council members and the City School Board.

Discussion ensued regarding possible uses for the old Grammar School building such as an Advanced Technology Center.

Council discussed a traffic safety problem at Grove Street and Railroad Avenue and closing down a section of Railroad Avenue except for industrial access. This would require constructing a new connector road. The City Manager stated that Rubatex would have to donate the right-of-way and may have to raze one or two buildings for the road construction. Mr. Gross stated that officials at Rubatex are interested in the project.

Mayor Shelton declared a recess from 11:40 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

It was the consensus of Council to put in the proposed budget, funds in the amount of \$109,700 for the Grove Street Proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding a request by the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department for the City to designate a lot owned by the City on Burks Hill Road for use by the fire department. The purpose is to better serve the south side of the City and to provide a new fire station that will accommodate a new ladder truck.

The City Manager is to write a letter to the Fire Department and inform them that Council has discussed the request and has referred this to the Property and Safety Committees to meet with members of the Fire Department for study; and that the overall concept of fire services for the City needs to be determined before this site is selected as the place for a new fire station.

City Manager Gross stated that numerous requests have been received for sewer service for City residents in the North Hills area. Mr. Gross reported that the preliminary engineering cost estimate to provide this service would be \$184,000, which includes a pump station.

City Manager Gross is to provide Council with a list of areas in the City that do not have sewer service.

Mayor Shelton stated that Council will hold this in abeyance until the Water and Sewer Committee can review the list and make recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding extending water and sewer lines to Southern States on Independence Avenue. Mr. Gross stated that the cost would be \$50,000.

It was the consensus of Council that the City provide sewer and water to Southern States. The City Manager is to put funds in the amount of \$50,000 in the proposed budget.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council that there are not enough children utilizing the After School Program to merit its continuance.

Discussion ensued regarding adding more employees in the Electric Department to clear rights-of-way.

It was the consensus of Council that a tree-trimming crew and an apprentice program (three-four people) be included in the proposed budget.

Discussion ensued regarding closing the old landfill by April 1 and beginning construction of Part B of the new landfill before approval is received. The City Manager stated that five different people from the Department of Waste Management have reviewed the landfill plans from scratch.

The City Manager reported that after April, the City will be using the Bedford County Landfill until the City's landfill is finished and is opened.

The City Manager is to furnish Council with a list of streets that are to be paved this spring.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.